

Snohomish County Ad Hoc Climate Action Advisory Committee (CAAC)

Thursday February 25, 2021

5pm-7pm

Notes

1. Roll-call (5 min)

- **Committee members present:** Jake Salvador, Margaret Seaney, Tom Campbell, Jonathon Witte, Pat Sisneros, Jeanine SanClemente, Stan Gent, Linda Lyshall, Ian McCluskey, Suzy Oversvee
- **Committee members not in attendance:** Anthony Gromko, Ryan Miller
- **County staff:** Lisa Dulude, Kevin Ruuhela
- **Guests:** Annie Cole (Snohomish County Office of Social Justice), Julie Titone (Daily Herald), Eileen Canola (Snohomish County Planning & Development Services), Janet Wright (Snohomish County Planning & Development Services), Robert Knoll (Puget Sound Energy)

2. Overview of county's Office of Social Justice – special guest Annie Cole (20 minutes for presentation and Q&A)

Summary of OSJ overview by Annie Cole:

- Office of Social Justice (OSJ) Purpose:
 - Recognizes a need for a more inclusive process.
 - resistance to racism requires resistance to other forms of inequality and oppression (economic, educational disparities, and more)
 - When we talk about empowering people, leadership is a requirement for change.
 - The OSJ demands that tasks continue to be focused on
- “Needs Assessment” for the county. Engage with the community and understand how people within the county need assistance.
- Ultimate goal for OSJ - employees of the county are welcomed here, and can succeed here.
- OSJ reviews documents, communicates with other departments, helps with internal training, drafting documents.
- OSJ is currently focusing on strategy and prioritizing projects in our own office.
- Other work:
 - Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office gets complaints that stem from their culture that could potentially make people feel dissatisfied with the OSJ's work.
- Community outreach work

- External work needs to focus on thoughtful engagement with the community for their input.

Questions from committee members:

- Tom Campbell - We don't want to go out into the world without a consultation process. I am concerned with how we can work with you and leverage the work you already are doing. I feel like there should be a more comprehensive process that we can work with you on.
- Annie - We are working with the University of Washington. They are working to take a look at the equity group. I want to pull people together, particularly directors to ask "what are you doing in your department for outreach for the community?" and get all of us together for a zoom meeting to understand the commonality between the departments to reduce the workload and burden on the community. I will be sending an email out to find out who we need to pull together to have this conversation.
- Tom - With John working in healthcare and health disparities, and the pandemic, there is an effort for BIPOC communities to be able to receive the vaccine and get awareness and education. There might be some leverage working with the healthcare effort.
- Jonathan - Health impacts from climate change disproportionately impacts the BIPOC community. Pollution (and the transportation sector) within these communities tends to be clustered. There seems to be an intersection between social inequity and health impacts. If there is anything we should be aware of please let us know.
- Annie - They don't tend to cluster there, they tend to put the pollution there. They don't have the political voice to speak up don't to build that highway there or dump there. Our role and goal is to shape the thinking and question whether or not those things need to be built there.
- Ian - I know that there is a lot of concern that whenever carbon prices are put into effect (carbon tax, cap and trade, etc.) those are transferred from those who are very fluent in the legal system to those who cannot bear them. The cap and trade proposal for Washington state has met a lot of resistance due to risk, that these burdens will be put on communities that do not have the ability to deflect them to other communities. I want to get ahead of that with our carbon price and while we make our Carbon Price ordinance draft. How do we make sure that there aren't any loopholes/issues in the way that we write it that will allow it to benefit the wealthy at the cost of those who are not. That is something that I am conscientious about.
- Annie - The OSJ staff are not capable of knowing everything that is out there. We rely on you and ask "have you thought about" so that what you are saying (Ian) doesn't happen. Part of this work is to go in with the intent of doing no harm, which keeps that on your forefront. If we do inadvertently mess up, that's why we bring the community in. It means we all have to get patience. What we tend to do is set timelines that are hard driving. By its own nature it means we are going to miss something, because we are rushing to a finish line instead of moving to a product that will do the best service. What are we after here? Just getting to the end? We are going to be up against systems that have deadlines. If we don't make real considerations here, it will do damage to us. We are asking ourselves "where are we putting our investment?"
- Lisa - I have had some conversations with planning services (Surface Water Management and parks). I am glad you are pulling together a big meeting and maybe even hire a

- consultant with the engagement piece and trying to implement equity into every body's work could be a very valid proposal or strategy.
- Annie - Snohomish county has a real opportunity to come out as a "first" to bring the community together in one room. I have heard from people in the community and they are given information all the time and aren't being helped. Since we are so siloed, we don't know that they have been asking the community the same questions.
 - Jeannine SanClemente - I have concern with the CPP and the short timeline of them. I remember there is a short period of time for responses and that just started. (audio cut out)
 - Annie - the need is to look at your policies and ask "Why?" and be comfortable with asking that question. This may lead us to think this isn't necessary.
 - Who created these timelines? Are they entirely necessary
 - Pandemic has brought issues with face-to-face communication.
 - New connectivity issues for communication takes up more time, and "unsure" if that was taken into account when writing policy.
 - Jeanine - I will reach out to PDS and let them know that is a concern of mine.
 - Tom - Would be useful to create a filter (or set of questions) that allows for the analysis of how to select programs and how that may impact the BIPOC community.
 - Annie - I took the age old reporters "who/what/where/why?" and added additional questions that would allow for checking on the "thinking" of our decision making. **Annie's email: annie.cole@snoco.org.** we are here to work with you to ask you to come together as a whole.

3. Updates from committee members (10 min)

- Other updates (all)

Tom - We got an opportunity for assessment (in response to meeting with County Council government operations committee). We've gotten the green light to move forward. Tracking the legislation, I have met with people moving the legislation forward in the legislator this morning, which has moved out into appropriations committee which puts a new climate change element into the comprehensive plan and environmental justice as one of the overall goals of the Growth Management Act. As well as Vision 2050 which has its metropolitan planning policies and countywide policies which then comes down to a negotiation with Snohomish County Tomorrow. It then becomes a part of the process by which the county comprehensive plan happens which should culminate in 2024. If there is a new climate change element, cities and counties are adamant that they will need more funding in order to add that. What we have gotten the green light to do is specifically regulations and mechanisms that would address GHG reduction and adaptation. This could be potentially 5 years before regulation is implemented. What I see us working on is in parallel to look at what best ideas are out there and filters. There are interesting tools and mechanisms and the implications on environmental justice are important. That is what I've said to the county council and the county executive. We can look at the language for the county. Our role is to look at plans, legislation, adjacent counties. If a comprehensive plan is adopted by the legislator, the department of commerce would develop an ordinance and development regulations.

Patrick - transportation, where does that fit into our conversation?

Tom - It is central to Puget Sound Regional Council Vision 2050. They are the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO). Federal dollars is their leverage. You have to have your transportation planning consistent with the Vision 2050. It is one of eight aspects (or so) to their policies.

Patrick - How does it fit into our work specifically

Ian - We are trying our best to address that in the carbon group. Carbon price could encourage EV adoption. How do we use carbon price to encourage investment in public transportation? It requires more thinking.

Jonathan - What we have been doing this past year has been on the county operations SOAP and when we combine it with the countywide action plan, transportation will be more front and center.

Jeanine - transportation is part of committee planning discussion.

Stan - Another working group on transportation?

Patrick - I would be willing to work on that.

Suzy - transportation and electrification are focused on by the PUD and I would be willing to help on that.

Tom - part of what I am seeing here is that we are going to start diving into more specifics and to allocate across vision 2050 and the carbon pricing, equity, and communications (**building a communications strategy**).

Lisa - Kevin and I just completed our first of two webinars and it will be published on the OES website. Second webinar is next week. The first one was on what we have accomplished so far and what we need more work on. Next weeks meeting focuses on:

- County's new commitments to climate change with respect to operations.
- Changes to the SOAP structure
- Survey open for staff for the month of March to present overarching goals and receive input on specific action items.

Plan on doing it with the staff and then the committee.

Tom - we need to find out what we want to do. I just want to make sure each of you have things that are interesting and passionate about.

Jonathan - The working group that I am in I feel I am not knowledgeable in. I am interested to hear what the other groups have been doing. I feel like I am waiting for something that I can contribute to.

Tom - I think we need to bring forward ideas and proposals. How do organize ourselves to make sure that happens?

Lisa - it is my intention that we had you guys review those local plans so that we could identify and starting building-in relevant policies into both the SOAP update and countywide climate action plan. We need to consult with county staff first for updating the SOAP since its focus is gov't operations. It has always been my intention to bring you all through to the strategic planning process.

Suzy - In response to Jake and Jon, we have a lot of different talents in different buckets. Allowing for other group members to join in on other working groups (contribute).

Tom -Let's communicate to each other when we are having our meetings

Stan - I did attend the first public forum for the city of Edmonds climate action plan. It was put forward by the Edmonds city climate action committee and their consultant. I am working with the city of Edmonds to get a recording of it. It may be useful to listen to it just to see how they did it. I was really impressed with how they managed the message out to the public and then engaged the questions back. There are ideas on how they went about this with how we may go about this in the future.

Suzy - They have a series of workshops coming up. They could be a good opportunity to see how that process is working out.

Tom - Do they have a plan already or are they building a plan?

Stan - They had a plan in 2010, and in 2021 their plan is to redo it. This was the beginning of the process. They know what they want to get, and are now engaging the community. We should be thinking about their process and talking to other climate action groups in the county to share feedback vice versa. Unless we get professionals on the table that can do this, we are going to struggle communicating.

Lisa - We are just getting started with the counties budget process. We can always request funding for the next budget cycle. We just need to have a justification, the need, the deliverables, and if we need to hire a consultant.

Tom - I would like to look at what the cities and counties are requesting money for climate planning. If we are to be successful, we can't do this on a volunteer basis. We need more effort behind this than what we currently have.

Stan - I will get you that information.

Tom - We need city engagement in addition.

Stan - When does the budget process need to be submitted by?

Lisa - Final budgets need to be completed by June.

Stan - I will make a short list of things we need to be helped with from what I learned at Edmonds. (Deliverables and budget pricing).

- Meeting frequency (Tom C.)
 - Tom - Should we have monthly meetings or every other month?
 - Linda – Would like to have more time to get more in the weeds with our work, and having that alternate month to have time would be great.
 - Suzy - I agree with Linda.
 - Motion to have committee meetings occur on a bimonthly schedule
- Email forwarding (Lisa D)
 - Forwarding to personal email accounts has been auto-stopped by County's IT department. If you have setup auto-forwarding to the personal email you will not get those to your personal email.
 - Stan - you can download the Microsoft 365 app and it will automatically alert you when there are new messages.
 - Linda - can we use personal emails to communicate within our working groups?
 - Lisa - You need to use your SnoCo email for communication. IT says that it compromises security and makes it subject for public record.

4. Summary of the presentations to County Executive and Council (15 min)

- Lisa to provide overview, including Land Conservation Initiative (15 min)
 - Lisa - Committee had a meeting with County Executive Dave Somers last week, and working groups gave updates on their work.
 - Lisa - An update from my division (Office of Energy and Sustainability) was a Land Conservation Initiative concept. I think this is one of the better tools to achieve climate action planning and the overlapping goals. Which is the reasoning for bringing it to the executive and council.

Committee Discussion

Linda - How much is collected through real estate tax?

Lisa - I would have to check.

Linda - I know San Juan county has 1% of all sales go to conservation and that was authorized to stay RCWs and wondering if Snohomish could consider something like that. There is some plans that does prioritize land conservation in Snohomish county. There is one for the farmland conservation, and the salmon recovery plans prioritize habitat conservation as well.

Lisa - There has been prioritization from these groups. But there isn't a strategy that looks at what lands have multiple co-benefits.

Suzy Oversvee - There is still proposed legislation that is being considered - Urban heat island (audio disconnected) Encouraging utility tree planting programs from an energy savings perspective. There might be a path forward in the future for that kind of partnership.

Tom - There are many moving parts on the topic of trees and carbon storage and would love to bring this into our work.

Lisa - If anyone wants to watch the presentation, the videos are on the council agenda. [The recording of that presentation is available here](#) and OES update starts at the 15 minute mark.

5. Working group updates, if any (15 min)

Patrick update on Equity working group - Create a scope of work for a consultant.

Tom Campbell - Land use - we will be working on creating a matrix for dropping ideas into the various 8 areas from the countywide planning policies that flow from Vision 2050. Still working on timing and how to do that best.

Tom - Next steps for the Carbon Group?

Ian - Carbon group - Gotten far. Stalled out. Working on setting up a new meeting for the carbon group.

Stan - carbon group - The goal is to develop policies and procedures to implement the price of carbon. Building that into the day to day policies of the county will ensure that carbon reduction is a focus. If we continue on for the next couple of months, we will deliver to the committee and group as a whole.

Tom - We could be modeling how it would impact the decision-making process. The best way to communicate this out to not only ourselves but to decision makers on how it would actually work. Once we show how it flows it will come together well.

Tom on Land Use Subcommittee Draft Implementation Ideas - I want to spend our time looking at Implementation Ideas - As we move forward we can have committee drop in ideas.

Tom - What are the regulatory and market financial systems that need to be put into place. We can all add to these lists and some will have varied time of implementation, carbon impact, etc. There are a lot of groups that would like to have their ideas added and we can add our own to this.

Patrick - what do you believe the impact is on affordable housing? What is your sense of the balance between sustainability versus affordable housing?

Tom - There are a lot of pieces to that and it is central to creating affordable living (and more mixed use). There is a need to diversify affordability. It is a countywide issue. We can view this from an equity basis.

Tom - I think it is useful to look through “Land Use Subcommittee Draft Implementation Ideas” to understand how it all comes together, and look at the mechanisms and how they work together. Good planning is good but it doesn’t mean anything without implementing regulations.

Jeanine - our big push is the CPPs. I suggest that people from this group look at the draft CPP, in particular those that look at climate and the environment. The CPPs are the backbone by which future county code and ordinance will be coming.

Lisa - when you look at the CPPs that transportation related policies (transit, electrification vehicle ev charging) is in the transportation section and the land use is in the Natural Environment sections I believe. - I think it's good to have a sense of the CPPs and what specific mechanisms/action items do we want to have.

Eileen: County’s website with the CPP info: <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5782/Countywide-Planning-Policies>

Lisa – Would like to bring awareness to what I think is a false dichotomy that we need to choose between affordable housing and the environment, or transportation and trees, or density and open space as examples. We all need all of these and should work on making them happen together. There needs to be a “yes and” mentality instead of one or the other.

Lisa - Thinking about how we make all new construction to be EV capable or EV ready is low-hanging fruit. There is already new legislation that has passed under the clean buildings act, which requires some EV ready parking. However, there is more opportunity in the residential sector for new construction for EV capable and EV ready (this could just be wiring and panel capacity for new construction, and/or putting in 240 volt outlets for EVs as an example).

Lisa - in Copenhagen, Denmark there is a requirement to have public transportation interlinked with population density. Just as a thought to get you thinking about “yes and” concepts.

Tom - I want to make you feel like your work and opinions are valued.

Eileen - Are you guys watching the Low Carbon Fuel Standard that the governor may pass?

Lisa - I have been following some bill tracking conversation groups. I just know that it is still live.

Linda - I haven’t been tracking it closely this year. It is a good bill though, I support it.

6. Brainstorm/discuss ideas to reduce GHGs related to landuse and development (50 min)

- Matrix in-progress to capture policies/ideas from review of other local gov’t plans
- For discussion: See two documents attached

7. Wrap-Up (5 min)

Chat messages from Jeanine to group:

B1036 – Implements a low-carbon fuel standard. Prime Sponsor – Representative Fitzgibbon (D; 34th District; SW Seattle & Vashon Island) (Co-Sponsor Slatter – D) Current status – This bill has been replaced by HB1091, an updated version. (The only substantive change requires fuels to have associated emissions at least 20% below 2017 levels to generate credits.) Assigned to the House Committee on Environment and Energy. Next step would be – Scheduling a hearing.

<https://www.waclimateleg.info>

<https://www.waclimateleg.info/hb1036/>